

What is claimed is:

1. A device, comprising:
  - 2 a fan configured to run at a variable speed; and
  - 2 a converter electrically coupled to said fan in such a way as to control a speed of said
  - 4 fan, wherein said converter receives an altitude and outputs a fan speed control
  - 2 signal calculated from said altitude to said fan.
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2. The device of claim 1, wherein said converter uses an arithmetic algorithm to
  - 2 calculate said fan speed control signal from said altitude.
3. The device of claim 1, wherein said converter uses a look up table to calculate
  - 2 said fan speed control signal from said altitude.
4. The device of claim 1, wherein said fan speed is controlled by said converter
  - 2 using a digital signal.
5. The device of claim 1, wherein said fan speed is controlled by said converter
  - 2 using an analog signal.
6. A device, comprising:
  - 2 a fan configured to run at a variable speed;
  - 2 a fan speed detector, outputting a fan speed;
  - 4 a converter, electrically coupled with said fan speed detector, wherein said
  - 2 converter receives said fan speed and an altitude and outputs a fan speed control
  - 6 signal calculated from said fan speed and said altitude to said fan.

7. The device of claim 6, wherein said converter uses an arithmetic algorithm to  
2 convert said fan speed and said altitude to said fan speed control signal.
8. The device of claim 6, wherein said converter uses a look up table to convert said  
2 fan speed and said altitude to said fan speed control signal.
9. The device of claim 6, wherein said fan speed control signal is output by said  
2 converter as an analog signal.
10. The device of claim 6, wherein said fan speed control signal is output by said  
2 converter as an analog signal.
11. A method for the setting of a fan speed, comprising the steps of:  
2 a) characterizing a thermal margin of a heat-generating device with respect to a  
fan speed;  
4 b) receiving an altitude;  
c) converting said altitude into a required fan speed; and  
6 d) setting a fan to said required fan speed.
12. The method of claim 11, wherein said converting step is performed using an  
2 arithmetic algorithm.
13. The method of claim 11, wherein said converting step is performed using a look  
2 up table.

14. A method for the setting of a fan speed, comprising the steps of:
- a) characterizing a thermal margin of a heat-generating device with respect to a fan speed;
  - b) receiving an altitude;
  - c) measuring a fan speed;
  - d) converting said fan speed and said altitude into a required fan speed; and
  - e) setting a fan to said required fan speed.
15. The method of claim 14, wherein said measuring a fan speed step is performed by said fan.
16. The method of claim 14, wherein said measuring a fan speed step is performed by an optoelectronic device.
17. A device, comprising:
- means for receiving an altitude; and
  - means for calculating a thermal margin of a heat-generating device from said altitude; and
  - means for setting a fan speed corresponding to a desired thermal margin.
18. The device of claim 16, further comprising:
- means for characterizing said thermal margin of a heat-generating device with respect to a fan speed.